

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJECT: FIRST SESSION OF WORKING PARTY ON FAO COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

,
MARCH 3-5, 1976

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ADVANCE COPY OF PAPER TO BE DISTRIBUTED
MARCH 3 BY CHAIRMAN OF WORKING PARTY. (NOTE THAT IT DOES NOT
RAISE ISSUES OF NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF FAO COUNCIL NOR GOVERNMENTAL
VERSUS PERSONAL CAPACITY OF MEMBERS OF FAO PROGRAM AND FINANCE
COMMITTEES).

2. QUOTE:

1. THE CONFERENCE HAS REQUESTED A REVIEW OF THE COMPOSITION AND
FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL, THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES,
AND THE CCLM.
HOWEVER, SOME APPEAR TO BE OF THE OPINION THAT THIS REVIEW, IN
RESPECT OF THE COUNCIL, SHOULD IN SOME WAY INCLUDE ALL ITS ADVISORY
BODIES.

WILL IT BE POSSIBLE AND ADVISABLE FOR THE WORKING PARTY TO COPE
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WITH ALL OF THIS?

IF IT WERE TO DO SO, WE SHOULD NATURALLY REALIZE THAT THIS WOULD INVOLVE AN ENORMOUS LABOUR THAT WOULD KEEP US STRENUOUSLY BUSY, AND PERHAPS FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

2. MUCH IS SAID OF THE POSSIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY OF ELIMINATING SOME OF THE COUNCIL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PARTICULARLY THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (COAG), THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO) AND THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES (COFI). WHAT WOULD BE THE GROUP'S OPINION ON THIS? AND ON WHAT GROUNDS COULD THE ELIMINATION OF THOSE COMMITTEES BE JUSTIFIED?

3. THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS (CCP) MADE A FEW CHANGES IN ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY. WHAT VIEW IS TAKEN ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THOSE TWO COMMITTEES?
THE CCP HAS MANY COMMODITY WORKING PARTIES WHICH IT HAS ALWAYS REFERRED TO WITHOUT EVER RECOMMENDING THEIR ELIMINATION; COULD SOME OF THEM BE DONE AWAY WITH?
PERHAPS WE MIGHT PROPOSE TO THE COUNCIL THAT IT AGAIN ASK THE CCP, ITS SUBSIDIARY BODY, TO MAKE A TRULY THOROUGH STUDY OF THE UTILITY OF THOSE COMMODITY GROUPS AND OF HOW THEY HAVE BEEN FUNCTIONING, IN ORDER TO SEE WHETHER SOME OF THEM COULD BE ELIMINATED?

4. REGARDING THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS HAVE CIRCULATED WHICH ARE GENERALLY KNOWN. EVEN IF WE DO NOT ADOPT ANY RECOMMENDATION ON THE MATTER IN THIS SESSION, SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS WORKING PARTY MIGHT WANT TO REFER TO THIS MATTER.
AS FOR THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (CCLM), THOUGH THIS COMMITTEE IS EXPRESSLY MENTIONED IN CONFERENCE RESOLUTION 3/75, I KNOW OF NO IDEAS ABOUT CHANGES TO BE MADE IN IT.

5. IF WE UNDERSTAND, IN BROAD TERMS, THE MANDATE OF THE CONFERENCE, APART FROM THESE SPECIFIC POINTS I THINK IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE, IF YOU AGREE, TO CONCERN OURSELVES WITH THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FAO COUNCIL AND THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL.
AS YOU WILL REMEMBER IN THIS CONNECTION, IN MARCH 1975 THE FAO COUNCIL CAME TO SOME PRELIMINARY DECISIONS ABOUT SENDING CERTAIN DOCUMENTS TO THE FIRST SESSION OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, BUT WE FELT IT WAS BEST TO WAIT UNTIL THAT WORLD COUNCIL BEGAN TO FUNCTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEFORE GOING BEYOND WHAT WE HAD THEN DECIDED.
PERHAPS WE COULD ALSO VOICE A FEW IDEAS ABOUT THE RELATIONS THAT SHOULD EXIST BETWEEN SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES OF OUR COUNCIL AND SOME OF THE ASPECTS DEALT WITH BY THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT (CGFPI).

6. WE MIGHT ALSO TAKE UP THE SPECIFIC CASE, FOR EXAMPLE OF THE COMMITTEE ON FERTILIZERS IN RELATION TO THE FACT THAT THE WORLD

COUNCIL AND THE AFOREMENTIONED CONSULTATIVE GROUP HAVE ALSO BEEN CONCERNING THEMSELVES WITH FERTILIZERS. THIS IN ORDER TO RATIFY THE SOUND PRINCIPLE THAT DUPLICATIONS OF EFFORT SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

7. WE MIGHT POSSIBLY MAKE SUGGESTIONS ABOUT WHEN THE SESSIONS OF THE FAO COUNCIL SHOULD BE HELD IN RELATION TO THOSE ACTIVITIES AND TO THOSE OF OTHER BODIES, AND ABOUT HOW OFTEN THE COUNCIL SHOULD MEET.

8. I HAVE ALSO ASKED THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL COUNSEL TO HELP US DETERMINE WHETHER THE BASIC TEXTS ALLOW THE COUNCIL TO STRENGTHEN ITS FUNCTIONS WITH A VIEW TO EASING THE WORK LOAD OF THE CONFERENCE AND TO THE TAKING OF DECISIONS ON MATTERS OF SUCH URGENCY THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO HANG FIRE FOR TWO YEARS.

9. SIMILARLY, WE COULD EXCHANGE IDEAS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FINDING FORMULAS FOR THE ELABORATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEETINGS THAT ARE BRIEFER AND MORE CONCRETE, AND FOR EXPEDITING THE ADOPTION OF THOSE REPORTS. THESE QUESTIONS ARE MERELY BORN OF MY DESIRE THAT OUR GROUP FUNCTION BETTER, AND I PRESENT THEM FOR CONSIDERATION AND CRITICISM AT YOUR DISCRETION. END QUOTE. BEAUDRY

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